

**Picea glauca - (Betula papyrifera) / Danthonia spicata Woodland**

COMMON NAME	White Spruce - (Paper Birch) / Poverty Grass Woodland
SYNONYM	White Spruce Rocky Woodland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Woodland (II)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Evergreen woodland (II.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (II.A.4.N)
FORMATION	Conical-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen woodland (II.A.4.N.b)
ALLIANCE	PICEA GLAUCA WOODLAND ALLIANCE
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	3
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM	TERRESTRIAL

## RANGE

**Isle Royale National Park**

This community is fairly common, especially on the southwest end of the park, and it is scattered throughout the park (less common at the northeast end).

**Globally**

This association is found in Michigan and Ontario.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

**Isle Royale National Park**

This community occupies flat areas to steep slopes at elevations usually ranging from 610 to 900 feet (in one case at 1250 feet), sometimes on old beach flats or beach ridges. Soils are sandy, sandy loam, or organic, and well drained to rapidly drained.

**Globally**

This association has only been described at Isle Royale NP. The global description is the same as the local description until more examples can be examined.

## MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

**Isle Royale National Park**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Tall shrub	<i>Picea glauca</i> , <i>Abies balsamea</i> , <i>Sorbus decora</i>
Short shrub	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i> , <i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
Forb	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i> , <i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>

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## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

**Isle Royale National Park**

*Picea glauca*, browsed *Abies balsamea*, *Sorbus decora*

**Globally**

*Picea glauca*, *Abies balsamea*, *Sorbus decora*

## VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

**Isle Royale National Park**

White spruce rocky woodland is an open canopy, evergreen woodland with variable physiognomy; canopy cover ranges from 10 to 60% cover. *Picea glauca* is the most abundant tree over 5 m tall, with 10 to 50% cover. *Betula papyrifera* and *Populus tremuloides* are the next most abundant trees, each with 1 to 5% cover. Shrub strata vary from about 5 to 50%

## USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

### Isle Royale National Park

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cover by tall shrubs, from 5 to 60% cover by short shrubs, and from 0 to 60% cover by dwarf shrubs. The most abundant tall shrubs are saplings (or browsed scrub) of *Picea glauca*, *Abies balsamea*, and *Sorbus decora*, as well as *Alnus incana* shrubs. *A. balsamea* is uncommon in the area burned by the 1936 fire. The most abundant short shrubs are *Diervilla lonicera*, *Rubus parviflorus*, *Sambucus racemosa*, *Ribes glandulosum*, and *Rosa acicularis*. *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* is the most abundant dwarf shrub. Herb cover is variable, ranging from about 30 to 80%. The most abundant herbs are *Aster macrophyllus*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Cornus canadensis*, *Poa* spp., *Calamagrostis canadensis*, and *Deschampsia flexuosa*. Nonvascular cover is variable, ranging from 0 to 60%; the most abundant lichens are *Cladina* spp. and foliose lichens; the most abundant moss is *Pleurozium schreberi*.

#### **Globally**

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#### OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

##### **Isle Royale National Park**

Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEGl005196

MAP UNITS 19

#### COMMENTS

##### **Isle Royale National Park**

This community seems to be successional after disturbance, such as logging or fire; on Isle Royale it may be kept more open than is typical as a result of heavy browsing by moose. The two species most severely impacted by moose browsing, especially at the southwest end of the island, are *Abies balsamea* and *Sorbus decora*.

#### REFERENCES